

WYCOMBE'S NIGHT OF MISERY!

WYCOMBE'S dreams of a prolonged run in the FA Trophy and perhaps even a Wembley final were shattered in a disastrous two-minute spell of their third round replay with Hayes at Loakes Park on Monday night.

Blues were leading 2-1 and apparently edging their way to a fourth round visit to Runcorn, when they conceded two goals in as many minutes midway through the second half. The scorer each time was Football League veteran Pat Morrissey following free-kicks into the Wycombe penalty area.

An epic cup-tie which ebbed and flowed over two matches, had taken its final twist and Hayes, who had forfeited a 2-0 lead in the first leg, this time held on to secure their place in the quarter-finals.

This was a shattering blow to Wycombe and to the large crowd of 2,000 who had come expecting to see their heroes record a convincing victory. But Hayes, who could easily have caved in after

their disappointing experience in the first leg, showed a tremendous fighting spirit and for this alone, deserved to go through.

AWKWARD

On the night they were a yard sharper all-round than the Wanderers who were never allowed to settle by their opposition's awkward bustling type of play.

Manager Andy Williams summed his team's feelings when he said: "We blew it. We gave them three goals from free-kicks. People just made mistakes. I'm so sick for the supporters. We had a good crowd but just didn't perform."

He must be particularly concerned at the number of goals his side are conceding from free-kicks and corners. Of the last seven goals scored against them, six have come from dead ball situations — the other one was a penalty.

It was from a free-kick in the 21st minute that Hayes took the lead. Morrissey, who had a hand in all three goals, curled the kick to the right far post and Alan Tottman rose unchallenged to

head in from five yards, with Peter Spittle rooted to his line.

HANDBALL

But within two minutes Wycombe were level. The ball was driven low and hard into the penalty area and struck Mick McGovern on the hand. Referee Mr Bartels had no doubt about awarding a penalty. Hayes contested the decision so strongly that McGovern was booked for dissent.

None of this worried Howard Kennedy who stepped up smartly to score with a hard shot just inside the right post.

Better sides than Hayes would have collapsed after this blow, and although Gordon Bartlett was booked for a foul on Steve Long, they kept their composure.

They could have regained the lead in the 37th minute when a great run and cross by Ron Nelson, set up Dave Hatton with a chance. But a brilliant diving save by Spittle, who made up for his earlier lapse, kept Wycombe on level terms.

Then a minute before half-time

the Blues snatched the lead for the first time in the tie with the best move of the game.

Steve Long, in excellent form, started it with a brilliant flick which sent Mick Holifield storming away up the left wing. After running to the edge of the penalty area Holifield shot low, Allan Jarrett was unable to hold the ball and Terry Scott stormed in to apply the finishing touch.

This goal, coming as it did just before half-time, would surely finish Hayes. Blues' fans were cock-a-hoop during the break certain that their side could win by three clear goals.

This impression was confirmed when Scott and a muted Stewart Atkins went close early in the second half. But then Wycombe decided just to sit on their lead.

With Morrissey and Laurie Craker dominating midfield where Paul Birdseye had another anonymous game, Hayes began to play the more assured football. But not even they could have predicted the drama to come.

The equaliser came in the 65th minute after Alan Phillips had

fouled Morrissey to the right of the penalty area. Alan Carrington curled the kick in towards the goal, and Morrissey evaded his markers to toe the ball past Spittle.

Two minutes later Carrington sent in another free-kick, this time from the middle of the field. Blues failed to clear and Morrissey was on to the loose ball in a flash to send a well-placed shot just inside the left post.

Morrissey was completely mobbed by his delighted colleagues, who were determined not to let him down this time. They defended as if their lives depended on it while Wycombe were altogether too frantic in their play.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; S. Hardwick, R. Davies, K. Mead, A. Phillips, P. Birdseye, S. Atkins, M. Holifield, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Scott. Sub: L. Reed (not used).

HAYES: A. Jarrett; A. Carrington, V. Akers, L. Craker, G. Bartlett, M. McGovern, P. Morrissey, B. Wiles, A. Tottman, D. Hatton, R. Nelson. Sub: D. Taylor (not used).

Referee: L. A. Bartels (Westcliff-on-Sea).

Attendance: 2,050.

Half-time: 2-1. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Kennedy (pen 23 mins), Scott (44); Hayes — Tottman (21), Morrissey (65, 67).



Hayes keeper Jarrett goes down to halt this Wycombe attack.